

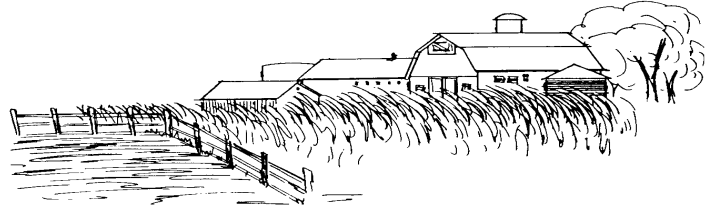


UTAH
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News Release

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Sheep Inventory

UTAH: Breeding sheep inventory, including replacement lambs on January 1, 2005, was 245,000 head, an increase of 10,000 from January 1, 2004, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. The all sheep and lamb inventory was 270,000 head, 5,000 head more than the previous year. Ewes for breeding one year old and older on January 1, 2005 totaled 200,000 head compared with 195,000 head on January 1, 2004. Lambs for breeding replacement, estimated at 37,000 head, was 4,000 more than last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 8,000 head, an increase of 1,000 from January 1, 2004. Market sheep and lambs were estimated at 25,000 head, down 5,000 from January 1, 2004. The 2004 lamb crop of 245,000 head was 2 percent above the previous year's total.

UNITED STATES: All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep. The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.